

Winter travel tips



- 1** Ensure your battery is working and take a portable jump starter or jumper cables before you go.
- 2** Don't use cruise control when driving on snowy or icy roads.
- 3** Pack your vehicle with gloves, coats, blankets and other warming supplies in case you get stranded in a storm.
- 4** Clean all the snow and ice off your vehicle, paying special attention to clearing your lights, windows, and mirrors to maximize visibility.
- 5** Be sure to fill your gas tank before you leave. Fill it regularly in case you get stuck in traffic or a gas desert.
- 6** Although it can be cumbersome, keep a shovel in your car. You never know when you might find yourself stuck or snowed in.
- 7** Check your tire air pressure and the condition of your tire treads.



Give plows room to work.

If you're stuck behind a snowplow, you're better off to hang back and not pass. Why? A snowplow sometimes overlaps lanes and its blade can tear apart a smaller vehicle in a collision. In Michigan, it's illegal to pass a snowplow on the right.

Watch out for black ice.

Black ice, a very thin and nearly invisible glaze, is dangerous precisely because it's hard to see in advance. Stay alert in shaded areas and on bridges, ramps, and overpasses.

Don't make any sudden moves.

Accelerate and brake smoothly and gradually. If your car skids, don't let up on the brakes. Your antilock braking system will prevent your wheels from locking during a skid.

Give yourself enough space to react.

It can take up to 10 times longer to stop your vehicle on snowy and/or icy roads. Slow down, increase following distance, and give yourself more time to brake, minimizing the risk of accidents.



Steer toward slide.

If your vehicle begins to skid, take your foot off the accelerator. Then steer in the same direction the rear of your car is sliding. In other words, if the rear is sliding right, turn the wheel to the right.



Put your headlights on low beam.

If you're driving in snow, rain or fog, reduce reflective glare by putting your headlights on low beam. This ensures clearer visibility on the road, despite challenging conditions.